

Challenges and Advances in Lesson Study in the U.S.

Coordinator:

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This symposium brings together researchers from four different U.S. settings, to share information about the challenges and recent advances in lesson study in the U.S.. Dr. Lynn Paine, of Michigan State University, will discuss five cases of lesson study development in the U.S., with a focus on examining how the development of lesson study in these cases is influenced by the founders' initial understanding of lesson study and their motivations for adopting it. The cases are drawn from five different sites, all located within the same state and educational community and include elementary classroom teaching, in partnership with a university researcher; high school teaching in partnership with a university professor; two different preservice courses (one aimed at students during their teaching practicum, the other before their practicum); and a university statistics course. Dr. Aki Murata, of University of Florida, will focus on strategies to support lesson study practitioners who are no longer novices, with a particular focus on strategies to deepen teachers' focus on student learning. Dr. Catherine Lewis, of Mills College, will discuss recently developed video and written materials designed to enhance lesson study quality. Specifically, materials are designed to (1) support lesson study teams to conduct mockup lessons as a way to further deepen their thinking about pedagogy; (2) train research lesson final commentators who can enhance the quality of learning during post-lesson discussions; and (3) support understanding and enactment of Teaching Through Problem-solving, which uses students' ideas to build new mathematical ideas. Finally, Dr. Akihiko Takahashi, of DePaul University, will discuss recent work to build "Collaborative Lesson Research" in selected schools within three U.S. school districts. Collaborative Lesson Research entails ongoing, schoolwide lesson study focused on a shared research theme, and systematic sharing of knowledge within and outside the school; it is widely credited for development and spread of advances in teaching and learning in Japan, such as Teaching Through Problem-solving.